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Japan

Solid Wood Products

The Expanding 2 x 4 Steel House Market 2002

Approved by:

Kevin Latner

U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

Masaoki Nagahama

Report Highlights: The 2 x 4 steel house market has been developed by the Japanese steel industry to expand the steel market. In 2001, 6,041 units were built, up from 1,225 the previous year, and, in 2002, they are forecast to double from the year before.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Tokyo [JA1], JA

In 2001, 6,041 steel houses were built, up from 1,225 the previous year. In 2002, steel house starts are forecast to double from the 2001 level, according to the Japanese Steel Federation, which represents the six major steel 2 x 4 producers. While overall market acceptance of this type of steel use remains to be seen, the market sector is expected to grow, if slowly. Of particular concern to the Japanese wood housing industry is the relatively recent use of prefabricated precision-cut steel components for structural framing members designed to be assembled at the construction site, as pre-cut dimension lumber is used for wood platform-framed houses.

In an attempt to expand domestic steel consumption, in the late 1990s, the Japanese steel industry began marketing steel houses using prefabricated and engineered steel products for structural framing members for assembly at the construction site. Steel houses had previously gained special administrative approval under Japanese building codes, and leading home builders were already competing in the Japanese prefabricated housing market using steel-framed prefab. homes. The following is a historical summary of Japanese steel house production.

Steel House Constructions - Update						
	Type Construction 1/		Other 2/		Total	
JFY 3/	Buildings	Units	Buildings	Units	Buildings	Units
1996	9	-	18	18	27	18
1997	43	-	26	49	69	49
1998	61	-	61	76	122	76
1999	88	-	93	133	181	133
2000	325	851	166	374	491	1,225
2001	643	5,607	230	434	873	6,041
2002 4/	1,688	12,523	400	650	2,088	13,173

Notes: 1/ Model Code of the steel house; 2/ Includes imported houses; 3/ Japanese Fiscal Year (April - March); 4/ Estimate of the Steel Federation. (Source: Japanese Steel Federation, Japan Forest Products Journal, June 11, 2002.)

End of report.